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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,483	10/16/2003	William H. Holztrager	7312	5383

7590 03/21/2005

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EXAMINER

KATCHEVES, BASIL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/685,483

Applicant(s)

HOLZTRAGER, WILLIAM H.

Examiner

Basil Katcheves

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 15 recites the limitation "said includes" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,674,240 to Strausheim.

Regarding claim 1, Strausheim discloses a system of a plurality of joinable panels (column 1, lines 16-20), the panels having center to center grooves (fig. 2: 10). Strausheim also discloses at least two panels joined to another, one on top and another on bottom (column 1, line 20).

Regarding claim 2, Strausheim discloses the grooves as being T shaped (fig. 2: 6&8).

Regarding claim 3, Strausheim discloses a means (fig. 2: 26 & 28) for interlocking panels together.

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Regarding claims 4 and 5, Strausheim discloses all the panels as having a means for interconnecting.

Regarding claim 6, Strausheim discloses the panels as having a rabbet joint (fig. 2: recess of 28).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Strausheim discloses the panels as having top (fig. 2: adjacent 28) and bottom (fig. 2: near 25) edges, the top having a rabbet slot and the bottom member (near 25) fits inside the slot (near 28).

Regarding claim 9, Strausheim discloses a base wall portion (16) with T ribs (6).

Regarding claim 10, Strausheim discloses the panel as having hollowed T sections (8) which resemble Pi shaped portions joined to the base wall portion (16).

Regarding claim 11, Strausheim discloses the use of extruded plastic (column 1, line 21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,674,240 to Strausheim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,986 to Holztrager.

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Regarding claim 12, Regarding claim 1, Strausheim discloses a system of a plurality of joinable panels (column 1, lines 16-20), the panels having center to center grooves (fig. 2: 10). Strausheim also discloses at least two panels joined to another, one on top and another on bottom (column 1, line 20). However, Strausheim does not disclose a shelf member attached below the lowest wall panel. Holztrager discloses a shelf member attached below a wall panel (fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Strausheim by adding a shelf as disclosed by Holztrager, in order to secure additional items.

Regarding claim 13, Strausheim in view of Holztrager discloses the shelf member as being inclined (fig. 5: 16) with a transverse wall portion.

Regarding claim 14, Strausheim discloses means for interlocking the panels together (fig. 2: 25 & 28).

Regarding claim 15, Strausheim discloses the top portion with a recess (near 28) and the bottom portion (25) being received within the recess (fig. 2: see top 4 to 28 connection).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited patents listed on the included form PTO-892 further show the state of the art with respect to slatted organizers in general.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Basil Katcheves whose telephone number is (703) 306-0232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman, can be reached at (703) 308-0832.

BK


Basil Katcheves

3/14/05

Examiner AU 3635